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RICHARD W. WICKING
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10 JOHN DOE,

CV No. 11 4083

11 Movant,

12 v.

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT
OF MOTION TO QUASH
ADMINISTRATIVE
SUBPOENA**

13
14
15 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION of the UNITED STATES,
16 Respondent.

Date: to be determined
Time: to be determined

FAXED
FIRST LEGAL SUPPORT SERVICES

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18 Movant John Doe respectfully submits the following memorandum of points
19 and authorities in support of Doe's Motion to Quash Administrative Subpoena.

20 **I. INTRODUCTION**

21 Free speech protection extends to the right to speak anonymously over the
22 Internet. In order to obtain Doe's identity from Google's Gmail service through a
23 subpoena, the SEC must demonstrate that it provided notice to Doe, have a valid
24 legal basis for investigation, prove that Doe's identity is necessary, and prove that
25 the harm to Doe's rights is outweighed by investigative needs. The SEC fails to
26 meet these elements.

27 Should this Court quash the subpoena?
28

II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

Doe is the owner of <jeffreyhooke@gmail.com>, a free online email address provided by Google. (Declaration of John Doe in Support of Motion to Quash ("Doe Decl.") at ¶ 3.) Doe uses <jeffreyhooke@gmail.com> to communicate anonymously over the Internet, including publishing his free-speech protected opinions in online fora. (*Id.*) Doe has chosen not to use his real name, or publish his identifying information, in connection with <jeffreyhooke@gmail.com> in order to protect his privacy. (Doe Decl. at ¶ 4.)

The SEC never contacted Doe directly to inform Doe of its subpoena to Google regarding Doe's email account. (Doe Decl. at ¶ 5.) On August 1, 2011, Google sent an email to Doe indicating that Google received an administrative subpoena from the SEC on or about June 21, 2011 (the "June 21, 2011 Subpoena"). (Doe Decl. at ¶ 6.) The June 21, 2011 Subpoena demands that Google produce:

1. Documents sufficient to identify the subscriber's name, account number, current residential or billing address(es), telephone number(s), credit card numbers and checking account numbers, and other subscriber number or identity, including, but not limited to, the Internet Protocol addresses used by the subscriber when registering for the e-mail address " jeffreyhooke@gmail.com", and when sending and retrieving messages from that address.
2. All documents that relate to, refer to, or concern communications between Gmail and the subscriber to the e-mail address "jeffreyhooke@gmail.com" where Gmail was the sender or intended recipient of the communication.
3. Documents sufficient to identify the names, addresses, phone numbers, and titles of persons at Gmail who can answer questions regarding usage, security, and computerized logging of the Internet server(s) or related computer system(s) on which Gmail's computer services are maintained.

(Doe Decl. at ¶ 7, Exh. A.) The June 21, 2011 Subpoena indicates that it was issued as part of the SEC's "Jammin Java" investigation. (*Id.*) On request of Doe's counsel, the SEC provided a copy of an undated Order Directing Private Investigation in the Jammin Java matter (the "Jammin Java Order"), and required

1 Doe to keep the Jammin Java Order confidential. (Declaration of Keith Scully in
2 Support of Motion to Quash (“Scully Decl.”) at ¶ 2.)

3 The Jammin Java Order is a total of three pages long. (Scully Decl. at ¶ 3.) It
4 recites the language of the Securities Act of 1933, and conclusorily alleges that
5 certain persons may have violated it. (*Id.*) It contains no factual information,
6 including no information on the source of the SEC’s belief, and no details on how
7 or when the Securities Act might have been violated. (*Id.*) Neither Doe nor the
8 <jeffreyhooke@gmail.com> email account is mentioned. (*Id.*)

9 The SEC is sending numerous subpoenas for different email addresses.
10 (Scully Decl. at ¶ 4.) This firm, and at least one other law firm, has been contacted
11 requesting representation in response to different SEC subpoenas. (*Id.*) For each
12 subpoena, the SEC relies on the same boilerplate Jammin Java Order without
13 providing any detail regarding the particular email address for which information is
14 sought. (*Id.*)

15 III. AUTHORITY

16 A. The SEC must produce evidence sufficient to support its administrative 17 subpoena in order to overcome Doe’s free speech rights.

18 Doe has a First Amendment right to anonymous online speech. *See*
19 *Mcintyre v. Ohio Elections Comm’n*, 415 U.S. 334, 357 (1995); *Buckley v. Am.*
20 *Constitutional Law Found.*, 525 U.S. 182, 192 (1999); *Talley v. California*, 362
21 U.S. 28 60. 64 (1960); *Watchtower Bible & Tract Soc’y of New York v. Village of*
22 *Stratton*, 536 U.S. 150, 166-67 (2002); *Reno v. American Civil Liberties Union*,
23 521 U.S. 844, 870 (1977); *Arista Records LLC v. Doe*, 604 F.3d 110, 118 (2d Cir.
24 N.Y. 2010). Doe’s First Amendment rights are implicated by the SEC’s
25 administrative subpoena. *Brock v. Local 375, Plumbers Int’l Union of Am.*,
26 *AFLCIO*, 860 F.2d 346, 349 (9th Cir. 1988) (finding that Department of Labor
27 subpoenas were subject to First Amendment scrutiny). A subpoena that invades
28 First Amendment rights without a legal basis must be quashed. Fed. R. Civ. Proc.

1 45; *Arista Records LLC v. Doe*, 604 F.3d at 118.

2 In order to overcome Doe's free speech rights, the SEC must produce
3 evidence that:

- 4 1) The SEC's investigation is supported by sufficient evidence;
- 5 2) Doe's identity is relevant to the investigation;
- 6 3) The SEC's investigative needs outweigh Doe's First Amendment rights;
- 7 4) The SEC provided notice to Doe of the subpoena.

8 *SaleHoo Group, Ltd. v. ABC Co.*, 722 F. Supp. 2d 1210, 1216 (W.D. Wash.
9 2010).

10

11 **B. The SEC cannot produce evidence sufficient to overcome a motion for summary judgment in support of its investigation.**

12 If the SEC wishes to use an investigative subpoena to compel Google to
13 release Doe's identity in breach of Doe's First Amendment right to Internet
14 anonymity, the SEC must submit evidence establishing its legal claims in the
15 investigation sufficient to overcome a motion for summary judgment. *See*
16 *Anonymous Online Speakers v. United States Dist. Court (In re Anonymous Online*
17 *Speakers)*, 2011 U.S. App. LEXIS 487 at *14-16 (9th Cir. Jan. 7, 2011)(noting
18 different standards and evaluating summary judgment standard); *SaleHoo Group,*
19 *Ltd. v. ABC Co.*, 722 F. Supp. 2d at 1216; *Highfields Capital Mgmt. L.P. v. Doe*,
20 385 F. Supp. 2d 969, 970-71 (N.D. Cal. 2005). The mandate that the SEC support
21 its claims in response to a motion to quash is especially key in a sealed
22 investigation because the SEC's investigative subpoena is issued without any
23 judicial oversight, and the SEC's administrative process does not provide any clear
24 guidance for how, or if, Doe could challenge the investigative subpoena
25 administratively. *See* 15 U.S.C. §§77t, 78u; 17 C.F.R. §§203.2, 203.5; 17 C.F.R.
26 §203 *et seq.* (containing rules relating to SEC investigations and subpoenas in
27 administrative investigations). Indeed, 17 C.F.R. § 201.100 expressly provides that
28 the SEC's Rules of Practice – which otherwise permit the direct filing of an

1 administrative request to quash with the SEC – generally *do not apply* to sealed
2 investigations such as this one.

3 The SEC has not established *any* evidence supporting its legal claims.
4 (Scully Decl. at ¶ 3.) It has not even revealed the *nature* of its legal claims, beyond
5 conclusory assertions that the Securities Act may have been violated. (*Id.*) Absent
6 evidence sufficient to defeat a motion for summary judgment in the Jammin Java
7 investigation, the SEC is not entitled to demand that Google identify Doe.

8 **C. Even if the SEC could produce evidence supporting the Jammin Java**
9 **investigation, the SEC cannot produce evidence linking Doe to that**
10 **investigation.**

11 The SEC must demonstrate that the information sought by the subpoena is
12 necessary to identify the anonymous speaker and that the anonymous speaker's
13 identity is relevant to the SEC's legal claim. *SaleHoo Group, Ltd. v. ABC Co.*, 722
14 F. Supp. 2d at 1216. In other words, the SEC must demonstrate, with evidence
15 sufficient to overcome a motion for summary judgment, that Doe has a connection
16 to the Jammin Java investigation. The SEC cannot do so; the Jammin Java Order
17 does not even mention either Doe or the <jeffreyhooke@gmail.com> email
18 account.

18 **D. Even if the SEC could produce evidence linking Doe to the Jammin**
19 **Java investigation, the SEC must prove that the relevance to its**
20 **investigation of Doe's identity outweighs the harm to Doe.**

21 Doe used the <jeffreyhooke@gmail.com> email account anonymously in
22 order to protect his privacy while expressing his opinion. (Doe Decl. at ¶¶ 3-4.)
23 Even if the SEC could prove that it had a legal basis to demand Doe's identity –
24 which it cannot - this Court must still assess and compare the magnitude of the
25 harm that would be caused to Doe in relation to the benefit to the SEC before
26 allowing Google to release Doe's personal information. *SaleHoo Group, Ltd. v.*
27 *ABC Co.*, 722 F. Supp. 2d at 1217; *USA Technologies, Inc. v. Doe*, 713 F. Supp. 2d
28 at 907.

The SEC has presented no information indicating that the

1 <jeffreyhooke@gmail.com> account or Doe were involved in the Jammin Java
 2 investigation, and the SEC is not entitled to explore Google's files to invade Doe's
 3 substantial anonymity rights absent such proof. (Scully Decl. at ¶ 3.)

4
 5 **E. The SEC failed to make any attempt to notify Doe of the June 21, 2011 Subpoena.**

6 The SEC must make reasonable efforts to notify Doe of the June 21, 2011
 7 Subpoena. *SaleHoo Group, Ltd. v. ABC Co.*, 722 F. Supp. 2d at 1215; *Doe v.*
 8 *Individuals*, 561 F. Supp. 2d 249, 254 (D. Conn. 2008)(Posting notice of a
 9 subpoena seeking information regarding anonymous users of an Internet bulletin
 10 board on the bulletin board itself is sufficient notice). The SEC has not notified
 11 Doe that it was sending a subpoena. The SEC has Doe's email address, but Doe
 12 only learned of the subpoena through Google. The SEC's failure to provide notice
 13 deprives the SEC of the ability to use the administrative subpoena process to
 14 compel disclosure of private information.

15 **IV. CONCLUSION**

16 The SEC may only invade Doe's First Amendment rights after
 17 demonstrating that it has a legal basis to do so. The SEC has presented no
 18 information justifying the June 21, 2011 Subpoena, and the subpoena should be
 19 quashed.

20 Dated: August 18, 2011

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 22 **NEWMAN DU WORS LLP**

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 25 Derek Newman
 26 Attorneys for Movant John Doe
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